



DEPARTMENT OF
ECOLOGY
State of Washington

Rule Implementation Plan

Emergency Drought Funding

Chapter 173-167 WAC

July 2015
Publication no. 15-11-009

Contact Information

This report is available on the Department of Ecology's website at <https://fortress.wa.gov/ecy/publications/SummaryPages/1511009.html>

For more information contact:

Jennifer Holderman
Water Resources Program
P.O. Box 47600
Olympia, WA 98504-7600
E-mail: jhol461@ecy.wa.gov
Phone: 360-407-6094

Washington State Department of Ecology - www.ecy.wa.gov

Headquarters, Olympia	360-407-6000
Northwest Regional Office, Bellevue	425-649-7000
Southwest Regional Office, Olympia	360-407-6300
Central Regional Office, Yakima	509-575-2490
Eastern Regional Office, Spokane	509-329-3400

Ecology publishes this document to meet the requirements of the Washington State Administrative Procedure Act (RCW 34.05.325)

If you need this document in a version for the visually impaired, call the Water Resources Program at 360 407-6624.

Persons with hearing loss, call 711 for Washington Relay Service. Persons with a speech disability, call 877-833-6341.

Table of Contents

Purpose.....	1
Introduction.....	1
Implementation and enforcement	1
Informing and educating persons affected by the rule.....	1
Promoting and assisting voluntary compliance	2
Evaluating the rule	2
Training and informing Ecology staff.....	2
List of supporting documents that may need to be written or revised	2
More information	2
Contact information	3

~This page is intentionally left blank.~

Purpose

The Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology) provides the information in this implementation plan to meet agency and Administrative Procedure Act (RCW 34.05.328) requirements related to rule adoptions.

Introduction

On July 10, 2015, Ecology adopted Chapter 173-167 WAC Emergency Drought Funding (AO # 15-05). Ecology is adopting this rule to establish criteria for disbursing funds appropriated by the Legislature for drought relief. Establishing these criteria will promote the development of projects that address hardship caused by drought and the implementation of these projects in a timely fashion.

The purpose of this rule implementation plan is to inform those who must comply with Chapter 173-167 WAC about how Ecology intends to:

- Implement and enforce the rule.
- Inform and educate persons affected by the rule.
- Promote and assist voluntary compliance for the rule.
- Evaluate the rule.
- Train and inform Ecology staff about the new or amended rule.

Also included in this plan is information about:

- Supporting documents that may need to be written or revised because of the new rule or amended rule.
- Other resources where more information about the rule is available.
- Contact information for Ecology employees who can answer questions about the rule implementation.

Implementation and Enforcement

This rule will be implemented by Ecology's Water Resources' Program Development and Operational Support staff and appropriate Regional Offices staff. Qualifying entities will apply for funding in a competitive application process. Ecology staff will make funding decisions based on the eligibility criteria and priorities listed in the rule.

This rule does not include enforcement measures.

Informing and Educating Persons Affected by the Rule

Upon rule adoption there will be a news release to the media, social media posts (Twitter and Facebook), Listserv notifications (Drought list and Water Resources list, Water Resources

Advisory Committee list), notification of city and public utility associations, and postings to the web site.

Ecology will also post monthly web site updates of descriptions of projects, amounts awarded and progress on projects.

A webinar on the emergency drought funding program will be made available via the agency web site. Ecology has produced focus sheets and step-by-step instructions on applying and competing for a grant. Staff will also be available to provide technical assistance for applicants throughout the application for development and implementation of their grant project.

Promoting and Assisting Voluntary Compliance

This rule does not create a compliance obligation for the regulated public. Those that wish to apply for funding through the Emergency Drought Grant Program are required to meet eligibility requirements set in rule. The rule, the grant web site, the application, and the instructions provide additional guidance on how proposals will be evaluated, supporting applicants in developing sound proposals.

Ecology and local partners will promote voluntary water conservation using methods and messaging that have worked well in the past.

Evaluating the Rule

Public bodies will likely experience impacts from drought at various times throughout the current drought declaration. We want to ensure that funds will be available when a need arises. Balancing the immediate need with long term planning is critical. In balancing these interests, it is essential that projects are chosen based on their effectiveness to alleviate hardship and will be implemented in a timely fashion. Fulfilling these criteria will in turn help us determine effectiveness of rule implementation.

Training and Informing Agency Staff

Ecology will use staff meetings, agency web site and e-mail to train and inform agency staff about the drought emergency grant program. The agency drought funding coordinator and regional representatives will collaborate to implement the rule.

List of Supporting Documents that May Need to be Written or Revised

All documents related to this grant program have been updated.

More Information

For more information: <http://www.ecy.wa.gov/drought/index.html>

Contact Information

Headquarters

Rebecca Inman 360.407.6450 rebecca.inman@ecy.wa.gov
PO Box 47600, Olympia, WA 98504-7600

Southwest Regional Office

Mike Gallagher 360.407.6058 mike.gallagher@ecy.wa.gov
PO Box 47775, Olympia, WA 98504-7775

Central Regional Office

Sage Park 509.454.7647 sage.park@ecy.wa.gov
1250 West Alder Street, Union Gap, WA 98903-0009

Eastern Regional Office

Keith Stoffel 509.329.3464 keith.stoffel@ecy.wa.gov
4601 N Monroe, Spokane, WA 99205-1295

Northwest Regional Office

Tom Buroker 425.649.7270 thbu461@ecy.wa.gov
3190 160th Ave SE, Bellevue, WA 98008-5452